Statement-Ill

Important steps taken to reduce pendency

1. Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, following measures have been taken; grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialised benches and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, etc.

2. Alternative modes of disposal including medication, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts etc. have been set up to expedite disposal of cases.

3. Information technology is being used in generation of cause lists, providing information to the litigants/Advocates etc. for speedy disposal of cases.

4. Fast Tract Courts (FTC) for the disposal of long pending cases, particularly sessions cases and cases involving undertrials in jails has been set up.

5. The Government has extended the term of existing 1562 Fast Tract Courts, which were functional as on 31.3.2005, for another five years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010.

Setting up of evening/night courts

2789. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage establishment of evening/ night courts;

(b) whether such courts have been established in the country;

(c) whether Government are willing to consider proposals for financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard;

(d) whether any State Government has approached the Central Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Holding of evening/night courts is the concerns of the State Governments in consultation with concerned High Courts. The Central Government does not maintain data of such courts.

(c) No such proposal has been received from any State Government.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of mediation centres

† 2790. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are establishing mediation centres in the States to dispose of certain cases in the courts;

(b) if so, the number and State-wise details of such centres established so far;

(c) the results of these mediation centres witnessed so far; and

(d) the future policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected from all States and will be laid on the Table of the House as and when the same is received.

(d) The National Legal Services Authority has proposed to train mediators in all States to enable the mediation centres function effectively.

Fast Track Courts in Chhattisgarh

†2791. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a request has been received from Government of Chhattisgarh for allowing the functioning of the Fast Track Court upto 2010 by extending its terms for five years and also for providing the required grants for the same;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.